

Summary
Agriculture, Fish and Water (AFW) Process
FOTG Executive Committee Meeting #6
July 25-26, 2000

Day One—Business Meeting

1. Welcome/Introduction

Tim welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made around the room. The Executive Committee approved the June meeting summary. Tim ran down the agenda and expected outcomes.

2. Meeting Overview

Gerry Jackson (USFWS) ran through the meeting objectives: viable farming practices, ESA compliance, and how farm practices affect fish. Phil Millam (EPA) explained what would be covered during the Clean Water Act presentation.

3. Endangered Species Act (Handout)

Topics covered by Gerry J. included

- Listings and the Take Prohibition
- Section 9 – Take Prohibition
- Habitat Degradation and Take
- Actions That May Result in Take
- The ESA Toolbox
- Section 4(d) - Special Rules
- Section 7 - Consultation
- Section 10(a) (1) (B) - Habitat Conservation Plans, and
- Recovery Plans

Gerry explained that this is a science-based approach that is legally defensible.

The harvest/management issue discussion was tabled to a future meeting, perhaps the Mt. Vernon meeting, using the Skagit River system as an example. Habitat restoration also needs a more in-depth discussion. Also postponed for a future discussion was the issue of the meaning of federal nexus and what that means in relation to a Section 7 consultation.

Proposed revisions to FOTGs will have to go through NEPA review process.

Action items:

The following items will be added to the Mt. Vernon agenda for August 23-24: harvest issue, habitat restoration, and the relationship of the federal nexus and Section 7 consultation process.

4. Update on Clean Water Act New TMDL Regulations (Handout)

Phil M. (EPA) quickly covered the new CWA rules (now in place) that affect how states do TMDLs. He stated that Washington State was already doing what was listed in the new regulations and do not give EPA any new authority over Ag. They will go into effect October 2000. The new rule can be found at the following website:

The group felt that we could benefit from Clean Water Act 101 training.

5. Fish Life History, Habitat Use, and Properly Functioning Conditions (Handout)

Jim Muck (USFWS) covered:

- Physical functions,
- Biological functions,
- Life history
- Fish requirements and needs
- Spawning and incubation
- Rearing
- Overwintering
- Passage and migration

6. Hydrology (Handouts)

Kate Vandemoer's (NMFS) presentation included these topics on a watershed basis:

- Hydrologic Cycle and Major Components,
- Explanation of a Hydrograph and How to Interpret One,
 - ✓ Flow frequency
 - ✓ Subbasin drainage areas
 - ✓ Inflow/outflow (storage)
- Field guide for stream classification,
- Longitudinal, cross-sectional and plan views of major stream types,
- Stream types and characteristics,
- Riffle-pool systems,
- Relation between surface and ground water,
- Relation of recharge area to the aquifer,
- Ground water seepage into surface water sources,
- Gaining and losing streams, and
- Point and nonpoint sources of contamination

Ways to improve hydrologic situations (both on a watershed basis and individually):

1. Increase soil quality infiltration/increasing storage;
2. Increase resistance to runoff;
3. Improve physical and chemical functions of stream course;
4. Improve crop input management dealing with waste pesticides;
5. Increase the use of field and land use buffers; and
6. Restore wetlands and riparian habitat.

7. Geomorphology (Handout)

Paul Bakke (USFWS) covered these topics through a “Stream Geomorphology Primer”:

- Definition of geomorphology,
- The big picture,
- Landscape-scale viewpoint,
- More current timeframes,
- Stable geometry,
- River geomorphology: the river triangle,
 - ✓ Water/Vegetation/Sediment
- Water in motion: bed shear stress, slope, sinuosity,
- Alluvial channels (self-formed),
 - ✓ Effective discharge
 - ✓ Bankfull discharge
- Sediment,
- Floodplain function,
- Channel evolution, and
- Human alteration and river channel responses

8. Riparian/Vegetation

Wayne Elmore (BLM) supplied “water catchment” information on:

- Physics involved,
- Sustainable/Functional systems,
- Riparian/Wetland vegetation groups (per plant species/advantages and disadvantages of each),
 - ✓ Stabilizers - root length, channel stability rating, photo examples
 - ✓ Colonizers - first to establish, are very weak; provided photo examples
 - ✓ Increasers/Invaders - provided photo examples, and
- Water velocity issues

John Anderson (NRST) provided a snapshot of large woody debris issues:

- Log jams,
- Large wood in the flood plain,
- Physical processes,
- Energy dissipation, and
- Biological diversity (wood processing, channel narrowing, bank building)

Outstanding issues:

- Buffer maintenance
- Reconciling channel migration zones with agricultural management

Action item:

Paula will mail Wayne’s handout to everyone.

9. Water Quality (Handout)

Dick Wallace’s (Ecology) presentation covered:

- Temperature issues,
- Current water quality criteria (Class AA, A and B),
- Temperature control (optimal temperatures for various species' spawning and rearing),
- Turbidity/Sediment (light transmission, siltation),
- Dissolved oxygen, including levels recommended for salmonids for individual life-stages and activities,
- Other: toxics, heavy metals, pH, complex interactions,
- Criteria for conventional pollutants by waterbody class, and
- Ecology's draft recommended criteria for dissolved oxygen and temperature (currently out for public comment)

Action item:

Paula will post the draft recommendations/related literature to the AFW site. (Mark Hicks- Ecology contact; Steve George wanted)

10. Regional and Watershed Characteristics and Functions/Watershed Connectivity

Millard Deusen (WDF&W) briefly touched land use activities and impacts, results of disturbances, declines of west coast Chinook and Coho salmon, population growth trends, and land conversion.

For related data, Millard referred us to "Our Changing Nature," DNR, (1998) and "Stream Corridor Restoration: Principles, Processes and Practices," (10/98).

Steve Jenks (WDF&W) shared information on the history of salmon in Washington State, salmon spawning and egg survival, salmon habitat requirements, unique adaptation of salmon, habitat factors for decline, and photo examples of good habitat/riparian zones.

11. Stream Process, Fish Habitat, and Agriculture

Steve Craig (USFWS) covered causes of endangerment of threatened & endangered species, the evolution of salmonids, and specific information on Bull Trout (Char) like physical characteristics, differences between Bull Trout and Dolly Varden, approximate original and current distribution of Bull Trout, population segments, regulatory and historic areas, and the four distinct life habitat forms, and habitat utilized, including spawning habitat data.

Steve went on to discuss basic requirements and why Bull Trout should be protected. He touched on the major differences between Bull Trout and salmon, and mentioned the Bull Trout and Steelhead/Chinook interaction study done recently. He discussed watershed attributes significant in correlation analysis as they relate to an upcoming study in the Yakima basin. Finally, he explained the most likely spawning and rearing criteria in the Yakima basin and conclusions drawn.

Dale Bambrick (NMFS) covered information concerning salmon and steelhead including typical life histories, average monthly flows in the Yakima River Basin, agricultural impacts to salmonid habitat, and where do we go from here (needed: functional riparian,

passage, instream flow improvement when needed, channel détente, on farm management of sediments, and opportunistic enhancement).

Action items:

Steve will share his PowerPoint presentation; Paula will mail it out to the group.

12. Panel Q&A

The day's presenters were given an opportunity to summarize "what does this mean." There was a lengthy discussion on "now that we have the science, what do we do with it?"

Action item:

In Mt. Vernon we will begin the debate concerning "take" and "recovery" and standards for each.

13. Next Steps

Get agreement on Mt. Vernon location/content of meeting.

On agenda: agreement of no more general tours-Ag caucus needs to discuss.

Future meetings, what would be the purpose of more tours. State, feds, tribal caucuses all stated that they do not want any more tours.

Need to discuss the development of technical teams.

Come December, need some level of reasonable progress on FOTG discussion/negotiation, not full blown product.

Action items:

- Other agenda items for Mt. Vernon include: concentrating on option 3 (out of the 3-option paper) at the Mt. Vernon meeting; discussion of discontinuing the tours in the future; development of technical teams
- Ag caucus needs to meet prior to Mt. Vernon meeting.
- Tim will put together a small team to include Paul LaCroix and Frank Easter to develop a proposed agenda for Mt. Vernon.

Day Two—Field Tour

Before leaving on our field tour, we heard presentations by Dale Bambrick and two local residents concerning Ellensburg's land use, watersheds, current hydrology, and site-specific information.

We visited the following locations to observe and discuss physical processes and fish functions:

- Naneum Creek
- Coleman Creek
- Yakima River

Meeting Handouts:

- Agenda
- Draft Summary from June 28-29 meeting

- Miscellaneous handouts from NMFS on the Riffle Pool System, Drainage Area of Little Senica Creek (Maryland), Dominate Bed Material, Field Guide for Stream Classification, Longitudinal, Cross-Sectional and Plan Views of Major Stream Types, Point and Nonpoint Sources of Contaminants, and Ground Water Information
- Stream Geomorphology Primer
- Federal Register, 4(d) Rule
- A Citizen's Guide to the 4(d) Rule for Threatened Salmon and Steelhead on the West Coast (NMFS)
- Table: Potential Effects of Major Land Use Activities
- The "Four C's" – Cold Clean, Complex, Connected (USFWS)

PowerPoint presentation handouts:

- The Endangered Species Act and the Agriculture, Fish and Water Process
- Objectives: Physical Process and Fish Function
- CWA/Water Quality presentation, including Ecology's draft recommended criteria for dissolved oxygen and temperature
- AFW FOTG Three Options Issue Paper, July 19, 2000
- Agricultural Construct, Colville Confederated Tribes
- Tribal Involvement in AFW, the Colville Perspective
- Regional Watershed Characteristics and Functions
- Pictorial view of salmon by WDF&W, including salmon habitat requirements and habitat factors for decline

Tour handouts:

Packet containing general information concerning gravity systems, fundamental principles of river systems, characteristics of streams, erosion, meandering streams, complex cover for fish, woody debris, optimal temperature, land use, and streambed gravel.

Attendee List

Name	Representing
1. Allan, Doug	Trout Unlimited
2. Anderson, John	National Riparian Service Team Consultant
3. Aronica, Allen	NRCS-Kittitas
4. Bakke, Paul	USFWS
5. Bambrick, Dale	NMFS
6. Boggs, George	Whatcom County CD
7. Brown, Charlie	Potato Commission
8. Burke, Mary	Cattlemen's Assoc.
9. Bush, Jodi	USFWS
10. Chain, David	NRCS
11. Clark, Mark	WSCC
12. Craig, Scott	USFWS
13. Crerar, Linda	WSDA
14. Davis, Tom	WA State House of Representatives Staff

15. Dela Chappelle, Charlie	WA State Horticultural Assn.
16. Deusen, Millard	WDF&W
17. Devaney, John	Repr. Doc Hasting's Office
18. Doenges, Rich	Skagit County
19. Ducharme, Dave	Yakima Valley Growers/Shippers Assn.
20. Ducharme, Dick	Wenatchee Valley Traffic Assn./Yakima Growers & Shippers
21. Easter, Frank	NRCS
22. Elmore, Wayne	National Riparian Service Team
23. Fullerton, Karla Kay	Cattlemen's Assoc.
24. George, Steve	Hop Growers
25. Gersib, Dick	Ecology
26. Hamilton, Rod	FSA
27. Hart, Bob	Skagit Co.
28. Jackson, Gerry	USFWS
29. Jacobsen, Ken	WA State Senate
30. Jensen, Martha	USFWS
31. Jesernig, Jim	WSDA
32. Johnson, Linda	Farm Bureau
33. Kauzloric, Phil	Ecology
34. Kelly, Noble	Farm Bureau
35. Konovsky, John	WSCC
36. Kuhl, Miles	Yakima Valley Growers/Shippers
37. LaCroix, Paul	Western WA Farm Crops Assoc.
38. Lael, Anna	Kittitas County CD
39. Landino, Steve	NMFS
40. Lee, Bob	Senate Ag Committee
41. Lund, Hertha	Farm Bureau
42. Mankowski, John	WDF&W
43. Martinez, Lisa	S. Martinez Livestock
44. Millam, Phil	EPA
45. Milton, Jim	Tri-County Water Resource Agency
46. Morley, Phillip	Snohomish Co.
47. Muck, Jim	USFWS
48. Nelson, Rick	Cattlemen's Assoc.
49. Noble, Sandy	USFWS
50. Poulsen, Karen	Hay Growers
51. Poulson, Mike	Farm Bureau
52. Priest, Jim	Colville Tribes
53. Ready, Carol	Kittitas Co. Water Purveyors
54. Richmond, Carole	House of Representatives
55. Robinson, Bill	Trout Unlimited
56. Rundlett, Mike	WSCC
57. Satnik, Roger	Kittitas Reclamation District
58. Smith, Justen	WSU Extension, Kittitas County
59. Smith, Paula	WSCC
60. Stockle, Claudio	WSU
61. Stuart, Don	WACD
62. Sullivan, Allen	Pine River Consulting
63. Thompson, Tim	Facilitator
64. Trefry, Stu	WSCC
65. Vandemoer, Kate	NMFS
66. Wagner, Bob	WACD
67. Wallace, Dick	Ecology

68. Willett, Mike	NHC
69. Willis, Lynn	WSDA
70. Zimmerman, Jim	WA State Grange